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Letter from C.P. McIlvaine to S.P. Chase

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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But there is another great element
in the change of feeling - the admi-
-ration of the Pres - about Emanci-
-pation has taken away the last refuge
of excuse for England's refusal of an
earnest sympathy with our cause -
Before it was - "We do not see that
if you succeed, slavery will not be
just the same as here - You Pres-
show us why about it" Now he does -
& it is acknowledged that the step is
wise - that it indicates the desire &
will, to do all that can be wisely
done - & that whatever comes of it,
that evidence will stand - I have
heard men of standing who talked
the other way before - say - "now we have
no excuse for want of sympathy - England
must feel with the Govt" - Now
thankful I am for the move - My
Chase Mrs

Ep. M. Swaine
Paris April 11, 1862

Paris Ap. 11, 1862

My dear friend -

As the French, after their
Revolution, dated their events from
that event - so I might now say date
from the — day of the Revolution made
by the Monitor & Merrimac - a revolu-
-tion in all the world - for literally such
a revolution has taken place - & we -
the U.S. is now, not only all at once
a first class naval power - but probably
in a few months will be stronger, be-
-cause most made of iron - I have been
in Europe but in a most remarkable
period - I came into the cloud of the
Irish affair - when was with the U.
S. was in every month & however

deflected by the many & the good
especially - the power of England & crush
our navy & bombard our towns was
unquestioned - The best affairs passed
away - but not the exasperating &
impatient style of much of the English
Press & the arrogant talk of many
about humbling our proud & brave
country - The blockade was threatened -
There was little apprehension of the
effect of irritating us - Then the tide
of glorious success of our arms began
to roll in - victory on victory - the
fighting qualities of our troops - the character
of our officers - the unanimity & determi-
-nation of our people - the certainty that
the rebellion will be put down - &
then the consideration that we shall
have 600,000 ^{men} thoroughly disciplined &
equipped - with a tremendous artillery -

& a powerful cavalry - for what? For
any thing a foreign nation, with colonies
near us, choose to provoke us to do -
The reflection was salutary & could
be seen - Lastly comes the admo-
nitions, loud & strong - uttered by the
two guns of the Monitor - I should
call it all - England is letting out
her Black Warrior as mere egg shell
to our little Admirals - the great iron ships
that could sink our whole navy - a
piece of paper which we could crumple
up in our hands - English coast fortifications
of no use any more - her navy re-
-duced to her few iron ships & they
all pronounced unmistakeable - What a
comfortable thing it is for me, (between
you & me) to see all this - what a
stun it gives me for a speech - I have
said her becomes the argument about
the rebellion -

for the Pres. in full measure - & -
after that, I at my direction - the
prayer for the Queen, as in the Eng
- but took with such changes as were
necessary for American use - The service
was conducted by the many English
present as a most happy union of
the nations & Churches - Thus, as I
was the first Am. Bp. that ever
took part in the consecration of an
English Bp. (the present Bp. of Lincoln)
so I am the first that ever ad-
ministered Communion in an English
Ch. - & to English Candidates -

By the way - does Mr Lincoln know
that he is an Abbe - The French
papers translate the subject low
style of our papers in calling him Abbe
into Abbe -

I shall not be on my return till

Chase was

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brother writes me in the strongest
terms of the policy of the former it
finds ^{at home} Mr Lincoln holds a high place
in the foreign mind, for wisdom,
understanding, justice & firmness - How
proud you must all feel of our
brave soldier - & you - & Mr Stanton,
as this - man, of our Ohio troops &
of Curtis' prodigious battle - & how proud
Gov. Sprague must be of his Brunswick.
Our last news is of the F^t Macon,
Nashville, & Beaufort matters - The same
action near Winchester (of which we
have scarcely any details yet) & the
going on still of the siege of Vicksburg -
We take it for granted that McClellan,
in his deep strategy, is moving on some
great point - I feel indignant at the
attacks on him by some of our
papers - The correspondents of the Times &

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the beginning of July - I found I
was too much preoccupied in England
with exciting work - incessantly concerting
- lecturing - speaking - all day - & so
I went - & must get where much better
- than as yet - then I am going to
have a month's run round by
Gene & Milan to Munich - & so
to Eng^l - reaching the latter about
the middle of June - May -
I said in my list. I wished you
could get Woodward to allow me
a credit of £100 more - to carry
me through -

We feel anxious about the
income of the evening - lest they
should be more numerous than
we are aware of & should get too
before we can multiply opponents.
My hope is to the Museum is

& Standard - (and) - have made
a most excellent impression here about him.
They are a wonderful set of incidents.
I trust not a thought of doubt of his
ability & sufficiency - & all that has been
relied upon in him, has entered the
mind of the Pres. The retreat from
Managers - I consider a greater victory than
if the army had been fought & beaten
& we had lost 3000 killed & wounded.
It was a victory of strategy - & that evening
an area of operation which the world
never knew before - I believe in Mr.
Challen more than ever - & very much
in proportion as a set of men who
success such operations by the
scale of the working of some twenty
regiments over a good sized show
farm, write him. There are
many strong brethren here & ~~many~~ ^{more}
strong Episcopians & some very much &

water worthiness - I held a Conference
yesterday on the principal English
Ch. here - It is an American Confer-
-ence principally, for our American Ep. Congre-
-gation here - The Bp. of London asked me
to take in connection with it, the
English - We had therefore 145- card-
-dates from 8 congregations, all English
but one - ~~from~~ ^{from} Paris - 3 of neighboring
towns - For a sufficiently large church
I took the English Ch. - the Rev.
D. Caspary - I had the Am. service
some days before, the Rector of the
Ch. suggested that as he had in
his congregation some 20 Southern
families - detained here by the war,
perhaps I would not use the Prayer
for the Pres. - Think of such an idea
for me - Of course, y - Know what
I did - Our own clergyman, Mr. Landon
- read the service - & gave us the Prayer

strengthened by there being no
tidings of any movement of Keop
her in by obstructing the harbor
of Norfolk - which I suppose could
be done if there were not confi-
dence in ability to overpower
her.

It is rumored here that Midell
applied for an audience with
the Emperor - & in answer
that he must apply
through his Minister -

In your last, written some two
weeks before the Rankin matter
you said you would write soon
again - When is soon?

Yours affectionately
Chas. P. M. Thayer